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A Brief History of the Club

25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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FOREWORD

Albury United Soccer Club (Inc) has seen many changes, both on and off the field, since the group of dedicated soccer enthusiasts first formed the club 25 years ago.

United has grown from a 2 team club (Senior and Reserves teams), to a successful club with membership in excess of some 160 persons comprising of executive members, social club members, and 11 playing teams: U/7, U/8, U/9, U/10, U/12, U/14, U/16, reserves and senior mens teams, and U/16 and senior ladies teams.

A successful club is not built on or measured by premiership titles, it develops through years of effort by willing, committed, and hard working people dedicated to the enjoyment of soccer. As I reflect on my association of 21 years with the people of Albury United I would have to say that I believe we are one of the most successful clubs in the Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association.

In 1991 Albury United socially affiliated with the Lavington Sports Club, a move which has proved most rewarding for us. We enjoy full use of the LSC facilities such as the velodrome - a first class venue for our six-a-side summer competition, and the function rooms - in which we have held many successful social gatherings, and sheltered for meetings on those cold winter nights.

In conclusion I would like to thank the executive and social committees, the many parents, helpers, coaches and players that have worked tirelessly, as our founders did, to make this club Albury UNITED

President 1992

John Van Reemst

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1967 G.Fuchsberger
1968 G.Knobloch
1969 G.Knobloch
1970 G.Knobloch
1971 B.Hoek
1972 B.Hoek, H.Van Gerven
1973 H.Van Gerven
1974 H.Van Gerven
1975 H.Winter
1976 F.Bannister
1977 P.Bannister
1978 P.Bannister
1979 F.Bannister
1980 R.Fraser
1981 G.Lydick
1982 T.Peffer
1983 N.Cavanagh
1984 N.Cavanagh
1985 T.Peffer, H.Hauck
1986 H.Hauck
1987 H.Hauck
1988 T.Hughes
1989 H.Hauck
1990 H.Hauck
1991 S.Kidd
1992 J.Van Reemst

LIFE MEMBERS

D.Knobloch
B.Schmitz
H.Winter. Snr
P.Bannister
M.Flower
S.Kidd
H.Hauck

Thanks to Mike Flower (Type), Barry Holmes (Printing) and Harry Wright (Advertising) for the collecting and compilation of information for this booklet. Thanks also to Mrs Yule for information gleaned from the ten year book and to all those who contributed photographs, press cuttings and information.

HOW IT BEGAN

In 1967 there was no soccer teams playing in Albury,but players from Albury were registered with a Wodonga team and played over the border.

With the growing interest of more players in Albury it was decided that time was appropriate for the formation of a team or teams in Albury. Prime movers in this direction were Derek Thornley, Bernie Schmitz, Hans Winter, Fritz Demharter, Hans Le Ramee and George Fuchsberger.

An advertisement was inserted in the "Border Morning Mail" calling a meeting of all interested persons to attend a meeting at the Boomerang Motel on Friday, November 4, 1966, to consider the formation of an Albury soccer club. From this meeting, convened by George Fuchsberger, it was decided to form a new soccer club in Albury.

A further meeting was held on the 18th November, 1966, and the following office-bearers were elected for the 1967 season:

President: George Fuchsberger
Secretary: Derek Thornley
Asst. Secretary: L. McLelland
Treasurers: B. Schmitz, J. McKinvin
Committee: K.Muller,H.Winter,G.Rossman,H. LaRamee

The name chosen for the club was Albury United Soccer Club.

The club sought and gained admission to the North Eastern Soccer Federation of Victoria and fielded two teams in the 1967 season.

The teams were coached by Fritz Demharter and trained at Melrose Park. This ground had been made suitable for play after strenuous working bees involving removal of a concrete cricket pitch, grass slashing, renovating existing dressing sheds and marking out a soccer pitch. The club colours were then yellow and black.

Enthusiasm ran high right from the birth of the club and in a very short time there were 39 registered members and players. They included:

M. Alavuk	K. Harder	F. Resch
M. Antonello	D. Knobloch	G. Rossman
I. Barker	G. Knobloch	H. Ruitenberg
G. Burt	*H. LaRamee	*B. Schmitz
E. Cham	S. Loh	A. Susic
K. Chambers	P. Maa	J. Tai
J. Craane	L. McClellan	V. Tai
P. Dawson	J. McKinvin	J. van Holten
W. Dedourek	D. Milic	H. Walch
*F. Demharter	B. Nieuwerth	G. Wegener
*G. Fuchsberger	B. Palavestar	G. Winter jnr
P. Gittel jnr	M. Panesic	*H. Winter
W. Groenendyk	H. Redfern	*D. Thornley

* Denotes players who transferred from Wodonga.

A report in the "Border Morning Mail"of the 14th March, 1967 indicates the healthy ;enthusiasm that existed from the first game played:

SOCCER AGAIN IN ALBURY

The first soccer match to be played in Albury for many years was staged at Melrose Park on Sunday.

It was a social game between Albury United and Wodonga Bulldogs which resulted in a two-all draw.

This could be the forerunner of many games to be played in the area as Albury United will be competing ;in the ;North Eastern Soccer Federation which commences competition early in April.

After a bright start by both sides, the game deteriorated as a spectacle. In the second half both teams tried desperately for the winning goal, but little effort was made by the defences to play a constructive game. High kicking seemed to be the order of the day, instead of combined teamwork and thoughtful clearances.

Next weekend both teams travel to Myrtleford to play in the $200 Alitalia knock out cup.

On Monday, 10th April, the "B.M.M"reported as follows:

ALBURY UNITED DEFEATED IN FIRST GAMES

Albury United played its first game in the North Eastern Soccer Federation when it visited Cobram yesterday.

The first game played was between the respective reserve teams and proved to be very entertaining and crowd pleasing right up to the final whistle.

Cobram quickly gained the ascendency and were two up to the first 10 minutes, with goals from Herman and Schultz.

Best players for Cobram: H. Schulz, S. Herman, and for Albury United: B. Schmitz.

Final scores: Cobram 2, Albury ;United 1.

The second game, between the first elevens followed an almost identical pattern to that of the reserve game, in that Albury United dominated the early part of the game.

They took an early lead when Chambers slipped past the defence to score from close range. However, as the game progressed, Albury began to tire and Cobram took the initiative and scored their winner in the closing stages of the game with a "freak" shot that cannoned off a defender over the head of goalkeeper Banovic, making it a 2-1 victory for the home team.

Best players for Albury were: Banovic, who played brilliantly in the goal, and young John Tai who at inside-right, played with the assurance of a senior.

Determination, the greatest asset any team can possess, was noticeably to the forefront at all times. Via the "B.M.M." this impression is spelt out:

In the first competitive game of soccer played in Albury for six years, Albury United caused an upset on Sunday when they held a strong Milawa team to a one-all draw at Melrose Park.

Again, on 3rd May:

Although United have had little success this season, they have now signed D. Knobloch, who will strengthen the defence, and they hope to give King Valley a good game.

The match was a real crowd-pleaser, and the final scores (4-1 in favour of King Valley) flattered the visitors, who in the last 25 minutes were completely outplayed by a fit and skillful United team.

In fact, United were unlucky not to score on at least three occasions when Ruitenberg hit the post and then both Ruitenberg and Walch came very close to hitting the net with the visitors' goalkeeper well beaten.

Two of King Valley's goals were brilliant individual efforts.

The inclusion of new recruit Dieter Knobloch added strength to Albury's defence which, given time, will prove very hard to pass. In the forward-line Hong Kong born Eddie Chan played superbly at inside-right.

Albury will have few worries for the future and will prove tough opposition for other sides.

Best players: E. Chan, H. Walch, H. Ruitenberg, M. Antonello. - "B.M.M."15.5.67.

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Although fortunes had not been with Albury United to any extent up to date, the never-say-die spirit was still paramount, and on Saturday, July1, 1967, comments in Soccer News in the "Border Morning Mail" highlighted the fact:

Albury United travel to play Milawa in what is likely to be one of the hardest fought games of the round.

Milawa are playing well, having won three out of their last five games, and a victory over United is essential if they are to remain a threat to the teams above them.

On the other hand, United are going through a very lean spell, having lost their last three home games, and will be anxious to take home two points in an effort to lift them off the bottom of the ladder.

However, Milawa proved to be too strong and after a spate of close marking and quick tackling which temporarily upset Milawa, Albury United could not stand up to the sudden attack by Milawa who eventually ran out winners by 2-0.

At this point of the seasons play the ladder was:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
King Valley	12	10	1	1	21
Cobram	12	8	2	2	18
Myrtleford	12	7	4	1	15
Khancoban	12	6	5	1	13
Whorouly	12	5	5	2	12
Milawa	12	5	5	2	12
Wang. City	12	4	8	0	8
Benalla	12	3	7	2	8
Wodonga	12	4	8	0	8
Albury	12	2	9	1	5

Results of the United-Benalla match were more encouraging as reported on Tuesday, August 1:

Albury United drew 2-all with Benalla in an exciting bottom-of-the-ladder N.E.S.L. game at the weekend.
Instead of "folding-up"as they have done in so many games this season, United treated their supporters to a courageous fight-back and a grand-stand finish which had the crowd on their toes until the final whistle. This recovery was made even more remarkable by the fact that United played the last 20 minutes with only nine fit players on the field.

Improvement continued and the next weekend saw Albury United defeat Wodonga 2-0, the success being attributed to the strong defence of Knobloch, LaRamee and Walch.

However, this win did not shift Albury United from the bottom of the ladder.

The season was completed with a friendly game against Wagga United at Melrose Park.

Even though the club finished the season near the bottom of the ladder, morale was high and the club was financially sound.

At this point it was suggested that something be done to encourage juniors to take part in the game, and it was announced that boys would be welcome at United's training sessions.

Altogether the season was regarded as very successful from playing and social points of view. Several enjoyable social functions were held during the year and the season closed with a dance and social evening on September 2.

Finance was augmented by several competitions, when prizes for a floor polisher and an electric blanket were given.

One big effort was made when members, with a truck generously loaned by Alfarm Pty. Ltd., went to Les Hanel's property and cut and carted wood which was sold to private buyers in Albury and Wodonga. The project proved to be a very successful one, financially and socially.

Spectator attendances through the season were generally very good, but difficulty was experienced in attracting a greater number of senior as well as junior players.

No women's auxiliary existed at this time.

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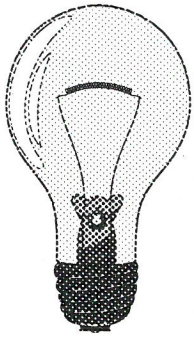

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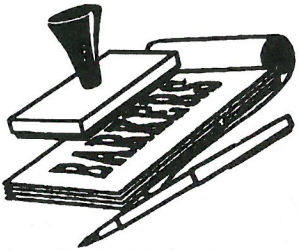

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SEASON 1968

At the annual general meeting of the Club held at the Boomerang Motel on 21st September, 1967, the following were elected to fill the main administrative positions:

President:	G. Knobloch
Secretary:	D. Thornley
Treasurer:	B. Schmitz
Coach:	F. Demharter

A review of the closing season stressed the success of the club. It could not be expected that for the first season the club would take out a premiership. The integration of a team could not take place as fast as that, but a great deal of satisfaction had been gained by players and officials alike in the efforts that had been made.

It was gratifying to see so many nationalities involved in the activities of the club, especially the overseas students that were attending Scots School in Albury.

The social events had brought people together and they had worked for the good of the club as one body. Financial support had been satisfactory and pointers were evident that next season would be a better one. Players and supporters could look forward with condfidence to the permanent establishment of the club, and a very bright season ahead.

Under the guidance of J. Schuurman and H. Winter, junior coaching sessions got under way during this year. Twenty-five youngsters between five and 14 years were enrolled and this number increased to approximately 50 by the end of the season. Delegates from Albury United to the N.E.S.L. meeting proposed a junior competition.

It would appear from early reports appearing in the "Border Morning Mail" that right from the commencement of the season optimism was at a high pitch, and although in the opening round United were defeated by Cobram, the Reserves were successful in defeating Cobram 3-0 in the curtain raiser.

In the game against Wodonga Bulldogs on 21st April, United ran out winners, 3-1, points being taken with two

goals by Gerhard Winter and one by Chambers at critical stages. The strong defence of Albury United was too good for the Bulldogs. In the Reserves match the tables were turned and Wodonga Bulldogs won 2-0.

Albury United's win over Wodonga Bulldogs gave rise to some encouraging speculation in their match against Benalla, and again their determination was noted:

Albury's teamwork and determination have never been higher, especially since its morale-boosting 3-1 victory over Border neighbours, Wodonga Bulldogs.

This combined with the fact that in centre-half and captain, Dieter Knobloch, they have the most constructive and talented defender in the league, United should run out winners.

An encouraging feature of last week's win over Wodonga was the will-to-win spirit displayed by the home team and a return to form of Max Antonello and full-back Hans LaRamee.

If United can continue its present form, it must retain its present standing in the top four.

In their match against King Valley, Albury United caused a stir when they pressed the Valley team in a goal-for-goal first half, as recorded:

The second half of the match again produced good soccer by both teams, Albury's swift-moving forward line was no match for King Valley's rugged backs. But Albury's adoption of a full five-man defence kept the Valley forwards out of shooting range. Not until the 35th minute of the second half did United's backs make their first mistake and allow King Valley to score their second and final goal.

Best players for Albury were H. Winter and H. Walch.

Albury Reserves were no match for the rugged King Valley team, the final scores being 8-3. Scorers for Albury were K. Harder, V.Tai and W. Moore.

Albury United scored a valuable win over Milawa in the seventh round, but went under to a greatly improved side of Wangaratta City the following week, due, according to newspaper reports, to a lack of their usual drive and enthusiasm. In the second half, however, Albury came back with newly-built courage and enthusiasm, but failed to overtake Wang's lead. Final scores were 5-1.

Best players were P. Maa, D. Knobloch and H. Winter.

The ladder at this stage was:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Benalla	7	5	2	-	10
Myrtleford	7	5	2	-	10
King Valley	7	4	2	1	9
Cobram	6	4	2	-	8
Wodonga	7	1	6	-	2
Milawa	6	3	2	1	7
Wangaratta	7	2	3	1	5
Albury	7	2	5	-	4

SECONDS: Milawa 12, Myrtleford 9, King Valley 6, Wodonga 6, Benalla 4, Cobram 3, Albury 2.

As with every club, United was having its ups and downs, as indicated in a comment in the "B.M.M."on 1st June, 1968:

If United continued to play without purpose or endeavour, as it did against Wangaratta City, it cannot hope to hold a very competent and efficient Cobram side.

United weakness is its attack where it lacks the necessary drive and shooting power to score goals. As a consequence, its defence is always under a great deal of pressure.

As if rallying to a call for greater effort, United defeated Wodonga Bulldogs. From the "B.M.M.":

In the Border clash between Albury United and Wodonga Bulldogs, speed and determination were the prime factors in Albury's 1-0 win.

Albury were unlucky not to score in the early minutes of the game - first the ball hit the crossbar and rebounded into the field, then another hit the upright post.

These, along with other shots, kept the Wodonga goalkeepers well occupied. Wodonga frequently broke away and looked quite dangerous at times, but they were no match for the Albury defence.

D. Thornley gave Albury their only goal in the 40th minute with a good long drive into the top left-hand corner from a distance of 35 yards.

In the second half a further goal by Albury was ruled off-side.

Although Wodonga put a great deal into attack, they lacked the combination to make it a draw and the final whistle saw Albury the winners, 1-0.

The "lift" was but short-lived, for the next report stated:

United are not playing well at the moment with many of its top players well below their best. In addition, J. Schuurman, M. Antonello and G. Winter are all doubtful starters.

(This refers to their game against Myrtleford).

A further report on the game says:

Myrtleford needed a penalty goal to set the seal on victory over Albury United. A great deal will depend upon which team can score the first goal. Both sides this season have shown a lack of fight when a goal is down.

This is a weakness both sides must overcome if either is to take out the championship.

Albury United will entertain King Valley in what could prove the surprise result of the round. United, with four reserves in, played a magnificent rear-guard game last week against Myrtleford, only conceding the game in the last 10 minutes of the match.

Once again it was its defence of Winter, Knobloch and Thornley that held the team together.

It seems that the greater the odds against United, the better their performance.

In the 14th and final round of matches, United had failed to gain a position in the final four, but their team spirit and doggedness continued throughout, and a press report stated that "they are finishing the season in good form".

Despite of mixed success over the season, the players and members were very closely knit because soccer was very new and small compared to other football codes. Finances were enough to keep the club above water. This was the first year the club was thinking towards establishing a junior team, and delegates proposed a junior competition to the North Eastern Soccer League (N.E.S.L).

The highlight of the end of the season was the game against Chelsea Soccer Club from Melbourne, and this weekend finished with a bar-b-que at Derek Thornley's place.

George Knobloch was in charge of the end-of-season social held on 29th October, 1968, at the Lavington Hall, when the following awards were made:

Best and Fairest: Dieter Knobloch

Honourable Mention: Derek Thornley

Wolfgang Dedourek had a big task in collecting money over the whole season to pay laundry charges for the strip (gear) of players, and warrants thanks of the club for his fine effort.

The first junior coaching clinic was held on May 5, at Melrose Park, conducted by John Schuurman. These clinics were continued during the whole season with an average attendance of 30 junior players.

Presentation was made to Wayne Binding (Best and Fairest Junior player).

Competitions were conducted to raise funds to support junior soccer, and the ladies auxiliary, as always, was active in raising additional funds. Their willingness and energy deserve commendation and thanks.

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SEASON 1969

The election of office bearers for the 1969 season resulted as follows :

President : G.Knobloch
Secretary : D.Thornley
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Coach : F.Demharter

With the apparent success of the junior coaching clinics during the 1968 season, it was felt that a continuance of the coaching was well worth while, and during the season the first junior game of Under 16s was played at Benalla. The youngsters played with all the enthusiasm of senior players and had a really enjoyable day.

It was quite evident from this match that the endeavours to interest the lads in the code were well founded and it could be seen that in time recruits for the senior team would be from the ranks of these juniors whose prior experience and coaching would pay dividends in the senior team.

A junior sub-committee was formed, headed by John Schuurman.

The Albury United team was faced with stiffer competition right from the inception of the season, and results of their match with an improved Wangaratta City side were watched with more than usual interest. It was the final of the soccer trials.

The season opened with the Alitalia Cup match at Myrtleford over the Easter weekend. The match of the day was declared to be the Albury United-Milawa game, with Albury United having a very good chance of victory after their improved showing earlier in the Alitalia Cup game, in which Myrtleford went home to win with a last minute goal. It was the closest game of the day, watched by over 1000 spectators.

In their match against Benalla on the 27th April, Albury United scored a nil-all draw.

There was a replay of the final Alitalia Cup between Milawa and Wangaratta, Milawa taking the honours with a 3-1 score.

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SEASON 1970

There were no changes in the three main offices for this season, but the office of vice-president was added.

President : D.Knobloch
Vice President : F.Demharter
Secretary : D.Thornley
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Coach : W.Sommerfield

Activity among the juniors was again a feature of the season. John Schuurman resigned as coach of this age group and Harry Van Gerven took over the office.

It was decided to build the interest and to stress the importance of discipline as a major factor in all aspects of junior participation of the game, and so become more valuable members of the club. The idea was discussed, and as a result six rules were decided upon for immediate implementation. They were :

1. Training from 6 pm to 7 pm every Tuesday and Thursday nights.
2. No football boots to be worn off the field.
3. 14 days no play when no points left (25 points each).
4. Travelling will be set out by the trainer and you do as he says.
5. When you leave the training or games you must notify the trainer or assistant.
6. The naming or changing of teams for playing will be done by the trainer.

When these rules were not followed, three points were deducted from a total of 25, progressively, making it possible for a lad to lose all 25 points.
It could have been predicted by sceptics that the rules would have been too harsh for the boys of today, and that they would not be accepted in the spirit they were designed, nor have the effect of exciting enthusiasm among the boys.
However, the response was very good and the boys benefited. The attitude towards the training methods which were governed by these rules was exceptional and rewarding to the extent that most of the boys who were introduced to the rules at the time, have become outstanding sportsmen.

An indication of their acceptance and enthusiasm can be guaged by the fact that Harry Winter finished with 22 points still in hand, Garry Williams with 18 and Rob.Robinson with 14 points.

Best and Fairest player from the Junior team was Harry Winter.

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SEASON 1971

New major office bearers led the club in the 1971 season. They were:

President : B.Hoek
Vice President : H. Van Gerven
Secretary : M.J. Van Reemst
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Coach : W.Dedourek

This was a year of several innovations, all of which proved to be well planned and beneficial.

One such move was the introduction of soccer programme booklets. The issue of these booklets was started under the patronage of Mr Tom Pearsall. The booklet showed a soccer field with the players positions marked and also contained a story of the club. Advertising space in the booklet was sold to retail firms and contributed to the funds of the club. The project was well patronised by advertisers and was very acceptable to members, supporters and spectators.

The colours of the club were changed to green and white.

As a fund raiser, Hans Sedlag organised a bottle drive and a goodly sum of $81.30 resulted.

Repairs to dressing sheds, goal posts and grounds were effected by a willing working bee on February 28.

A novel and very enjoyable function in the form of a ladies match was played on 4th October, augmented by a barbecue and drinks on the grounds. Admission was by ticket: members $3.00 a double, $1.50 single , or non-members $4.00 double and $2.00 single. The day was an outstanding success. The match was between United Ladies and Wodonga Bulldog Ladies. The players provided plenty of fun and entertainment and the social atmosphere about the barbecue was such that the event was not soon forgotten.
In spite of this, no other ladies matches were arranged.

Several members, Ben Hoek, Harry Van Gerven, John Van Reemst snr, and Bernie Schmitz conducted competitions for chickens at the Boomerang Motel during the season,

to the benefit of the club. Money raised through these avenues was deposited in two special building accounts.

The Ladies Auxiliary was to the forefront as usual and during the season donated 12 strips for senior players as well as assisting in fund raising.

On Saturday, October 30, 1971, the annual social night was held at St Patrick's Hall, the ladies rallying to the call again by providing the supper.

Despite the big effort by the club to send juniors to Melbourne, funds did not reach the required figure and the plan had to be abandoned.

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SEASON 1972

Office Bearers for this season were:

President : B.Hoek
Vice President : F.Bertazzo
Secretaries : M. J. Van Reemst, Ingrid Harder
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Coach : W.Sommerfield

During the year members received the sad news that the President's wife had passed away. She was President of the Ladies Auxiliary at the time. Following the death of his wife, Ben Hoek returned to his native Holland and the office of President was filled by Harry Van Gerven on April 6, 1972.

This year, Albury United was re-classified into the 2nd Division by the N.E.S.L. The club reluctantly accepted this decision, but decided to promote and encourage the junior players in every way. The Second Division was later abandoned because of the number of clubs opposing this competition.

N.Baker was appointed coach of the juniors and later, in April, Neville Baker took over this position.

Representations were made to the Albury City Council to provide a new soccer pitch at Jelbart Park. This they agreed to do, much to the delight and appreciation of the club which incidentally, was not called upon to contribute in any way towards the cost of the work. It was ready for the 1973 season.

At the end of the season, it was announced that the award for Best and Fairest player in the senior section had been awarded to Max Antonello.

Awards in the 5-year junior players section were: Harry Winter 1,
Benny Schuurman 2, and Tony Schuurman 3.

SEASON 1973

The year opened with the prospects of the club having a new pitch at Jelbart Park with a much better playing surface and being more centrally located than the old ground.
Harry Van Gerven continued to lead the committee as President, and he was assisted by the following :

Vice President : N.Baker
Secretary : Mrs Van Gerven
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Coaches : P.Bannister, F.Modlic

At a meeting on the 6th of October, 1973, it was unanimously voted that Albury United Soccer Club would join the newly formed Albury Wodonga Soccer Association, and as a result of this move, the club officially withdrew from the N.E.S.L. on 6th December, 1973.

Special attention continued to be given to the juniors under the leadership of Vasa Pobulic as coach. The lads had a very successful season by climbing up the ladder and being in the final four, but lost the preliminary final against Shepparton United. Harry Winter was selected to play for the N.E.S.L. at a junior carnival between selective teams from Tasmania, Victoria, Sth Australia and the N.E.S.L. and returned with the distinction of being elected Best and Fairest. The juniors usually lined up as follows:

John Van Reemst
Frank Timmermans Stephen Brunnenmeyer
Peter Mason Harry Winter Benny Schuurman
R. Mason R.Robinson Craig Pearce G.Sanderson
N.Gill

Reserves : Hans Sommerfield. Michael Van Gervan.

SEASON 1974

Harry Van Gerven continued as president for the 1974 season, ably assisted by :

Vice President : H.Winter
Secretary : P.Bannister
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Senior Coach : F.Modlic
Junior Coaches : V.Pobulic, F.Roberts

Following their acceptance into the Albury Wodonga Soccer Association, Albury United were excited at the prospects of night football at the Lavington Sports Club Oval. It was something of a new experience and anticipated with eagerness. This series was a huge success, so much so that it was alleged that the reason for it not being re-introduced the following year was because it was recognised as a threat to other football codes in popularity.

With the installation of two lights at Jelbart Park, night training was now possible and the opportunity was accepted by players and coaches with much enthusiasm. The steady growth of potential players into the junior grade was both rewarding and gratifying to note.

An original project was developed during this year. Building contract work was undertaken by members of the club in Jindera and Albury. Money raised was used towards the installation of the flood-lighting of Jelbart Park. Some $160 was raised.

The end of season social evening this year was held at the German-Austrian clubrooms on 11th November. During the evening, presentations were made to John Van Reemst jnr for Best and Fairest player and to Les Riley, Most Improved. The function proved to be one of the best social occasions held by the club.

The Association Night Soccer Booklet was distributed during this year and members were very interested to have a summary of all players in the Association. From the booklet is reprinted references to Albury United :

PRESIDENT : Mr. H. Van Gerven
Secretary : Mr. P. Bannister

Colours : Green/White striped shirt, white shorts.

PLAYERS:

JOHN VAN REEMST: Goalkeeper. An outstanding young goalkeeper.

HARRY WINTER : Right Back. Only 16 and small in stature, but packed with ability.

RENUS SLOMP : Left Back. Capable defender, full of enthusiasm.

STEVE BRUNNENMEYER : Right Half. Developing into a strong midfield player.

FRANK MODLIC : Centre Half. Captain. An experienced player with outstanding ball control.

ADOLF KEMPER : Left Half. Good all-round player, fearless in the air.

RUSSELL MASON : Right Wing. A fast direct player.

PETER BANNISTER : Always uses his experience to get the best from his young team mates.

TONY SCHUURMAN : Centre-forward. A direct player, good in the air and on the ground.

ROBERT ROBINSON : Inside Left. Outstanding as a junior last year.

KEITH CHAMBERS : Outside Left. A powerful winger capable of taking on a defence.

VASA POBULIC: Utility. A good all-round player who can play anywhere.

HANS VAN GERVEN : Half back. A promising young player.

JOHN DRACAUCIC : Utility. A versatile youngster.

LES RILEY : Utility. A hard working player showing rapid improvement.

SEASON 1975

It was quite clear from the report submitted by the president (Tony Ratcliffe) of the Albury Wodonga Soccer Association in October of this year that soccer was undoubtedly a popular code of football.

His opening paragraph read :

" Once again the Association has experienced a season of strong and welcome growth with the total number of teams playing competition soccer within the city boundaries of Albury and Wodonga increasing to 55 : 41 in the 5 junior divisions and 14 in the two senior divisions. Coupled with this growth has been the encouraging consolidation within most of the member clubs, all of whom are in a stronger position than they were a year ago...."

Albury United improved their standard of play and were placed third on the premiership ladder for seniors and fourth on the reserves ladder. All teams played in the Albury/Wodonga Soccer Association.

Pre-season competitions were played as warm-ups and trial games were played before the proper competition rounds commenced.

There was a steady growth in the club during the year and a noticeable lift in general support was experienced. With the growing interest in soccer, local business houses were approached to sponsor junior teams by donating complete outfits of gear and soccer balls. The result was very good and added quite markedly to the general morale of the juniors.

Another factor which helped in no small way with the junior players was the loyal support given by parents to coaches of the various age groups. The value of this interest and support cannot be rated too highly. It added to the lads attitude something that is unique and irreplaceable from any other source.

A junior trophy presentation at the end of the season was held at the Lavington Hall when the gathering included all junior players and their brothers and sisters. All boys who were members of a team received a trophy and this policy was then adopted by the club and continued to be the norm for junior players.

1975 UNDER 16s.
BACK: M.Flower, G.Williams, M.Radiocek, M.Godde, A.Assigal, A.Radke, P.Bannister (Coach)
FRONT: G.Massie, P.Walsh, M.Glerean, A.Read, S.Simpson, D.Sharpe

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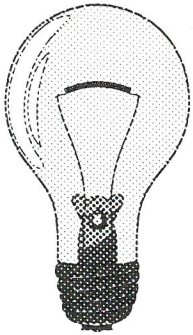

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United's Devlin tackles against Diamonds as Modlic (left) and Winter look on.

United's P.Bannister arrives too late to prevent a Hotspurs shot at goal in a United v Hotspurs Cup match. Looking on is Greg Williams.

During the year, the "Border Soccer" newspaper was established and members of Albury United played their part in getting the news-sheet under way by canvassing businesses for advertisements.

Night training at Jelbart Park was improved with the installation of an additional light , members of the club carrying out the work.

A new club insignia was designed by Mike Donders and adopted by the club. Office bearers for the year were :

President : H.Winter
Vice President : V.Pobulic
Secretary : P.Bannister
Treasurer : B.Schmitz

Unfortunately for the club, Mike Donders was then transferred to Mildura for work reasons, the club thereby losing a valuable member and player.
Appreciation of the services of coaches of the various teams was registered. The coaches were :

Senior 1sts, Reserves : F.Modlic/J.Newbold
Under 16 : P.Bannister
Under 14 : ----------
Under 12 : E.Richardson
Under 10 : H.Winter, jnr

Frank Modlic began the season as senior coach but was forced to resign due to business pressure and the fact that he was building his new home. John Newbold took over, with Frank remaining as a player only. Vasa Pobulic played his 100th game for the club during the season and was presented with a bottle of champagne to celebrate. United were rocked by a double blow during the season when star forward Terry Devlin suffered severe injuries during a match and needed to be hospitalised. Club President Hans Winter joined him in hospital after suffering a heart attack. Terry was heard to quip "A good club United, even send the President in to keep you company ! ". Thankfully, both men recovered.

A very successful season was experienced socially, with good work being done by the ladies auxiliary and helpers whom they recruited. It can be said without fear of contradiction that the behind-the-scenes work done by the ladies contributed very largely to the overall smooth running of the club.

Finances were augmented during the year through competitions, prizes being a 14" colour television, a digital clock and 10 electric blankets. These competitions always proved to be popular.

HONOURS OF LEAGUE COMPETITION

SENIORS	: Albury City	Albury United third
RESERVES	: Twin City	Albury United fourth
UNDER 16	: Twin City Wanderers	Albury United third
UNDER 14	: Twin City	Albury United eighth
UNDER 12	: Melrose Park Rangers	Albury United third
UNDER 10	: Hotspurs A.	Albury United fifth
UNDER 8	: Albury United	Twin City B.runners up

HONOURS OF CUP COMPETITION

UNDER 16	: Twin City	Albury United runner up
UNDER 12	: Melrose Park	Albury United runner up
UNDER 8	: Albury United	Twin City B runner up

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS 1975

SENIORS : J.Van Reemst, W.Fraser, H.Winter
UNDER 16 : Paul Robards, Greg Williams
UNDER 14 : Philip Walsh
UNDER 12 : Wayne Thomas, Neil Baillie
UNDER 10 : G.Ruitenberg
UNDER 8 :S.Massie, D.Thomas, B.Harper, S.Armstrong, P.Stephens.

S.Brunnenmeyer (United) takes on G.Zivkovic of Albury City in 1975

UNITED DOWN CITY

UNITED 5 CITY 1

City might have had the idea they could coast through this one to make it an undefeated season but they came up against a full strength United side determined to win the day. City, without Joe Sagor and Phil Barrett (he played reserves), lacked the poise and ideas that made them champs. United were 2 up at half time with goals from Newbolt and Rily (the poacher). Two minutes after the restart it was Riley again scoring no. 3 and leaving goalkeeper Byer sitting dejectedly at the foot of the post. His team mates seemed to have deserted him. Devlin was causing all sorts of trouble in mid field, bursting through and coming close on several occasions. Fine unselfish running by F rank Modlic, decoying and creating gaps was a highlight. Riley struck again for his hat trick and City were sunk. Newbolt added no. 5 and United relaxed - five minutes from time City scored but the team seemed to lack force and direction, which throughout the season has been prominant in their impressive championship run. Perhaps it was last week's easy win but on the day they were outplayed.

From a United view, a great game and and a fine win - we'l done boys.

Terry Devlin (Below and below left) in action against Albury City.

TERRY DEVLIN SERIOUSLY INJURED

Uniteds' cup hopes were hard hit on Sunday when their star forward, Terry Devlin was injured in a clash with Diamonds goal-keeper Harry Besic.

Both players were going for a high ball and, as neither saw the other coming, they collided very heavily.

Devlin was immediately taken by ambulance to Albury Base Hospital where at first it was thought that he had just cracked a few ribs. X-Rays showed more serious damage, including a punctured lung, several broken ribs and a ruptured spleen which was removed in an operation on Sunday night.

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SEASON 1976

Those chosen to fill the administrative offices of the club for 1976 were :

President : F.Bannister
Vice President : H.Winter
Secretary : G.Robards
Treasurer : B.Schmitz

Because of the ever increasing numbers of juniors becoming interested in the club, it was necessary to form two additional teams: an under 8 team (coached by J.Graham) and an under 10 team (coached by B.Yule)

In addition to these two new teams, the club sponsored two girls netball teams - Albury United and Soccer Sisters. A volleyball team, named Albury United Road Runners, was successful in the winter competition in becoming premiers in the B-grade section. They were then advanced to the A-grade Reserves for the summer competition. In this grade, they won the premiership also.

Following their successes, the volleyball team was stepped up to the A-grade competition for the following year. The team comprised :

Kary Lezius	Harry Winter
Renus Slomp	John Negerman
Martin Thompson	Wayne Fraser
John Van Reemst, jnr	Russell Godson.

The club was very thankful to have the use of a caravan kiosk, donated by Jen Charles Caravans. The unit was a very useful facility and served a double purpose: being a kiosk and a revenue producer through advertising space bought by local business houses. Advertisers included Jacobs Joinery, Darrell Smailes Car Radio, Star Service Station and Car Wash, Alpine industries, Kenyul Rent-a-Truck, SAS Travel Bureau, and Wodonga Wonderland Toy Shop.

Senior members as well as the committee were very appreciative of De Bortolis winery for their very fine donation of complete outfits for senior players.

Successes were registered by three teams in their reaching of the October Cup Finals. They were Under 16, Under 12 and Under 10; the Under 12s winning the cup. The Under 10 team won the League Championship and were runners up in the October cup.

These performances were a fitting close to months of determination and hard work and all participants have every right to feel satisfied with their efforts for the season. Coaches for all teams are to be congratulated on their perseverance and dedication. The panel consisted of :

1st Team, Reserves	: G.Massie and R.Fraser
Under 16	: P.Bannister
Under 14	: E.Richardson
Under 12	: K.Pretty
Under 10	: H.Ruitenberg and B.Yule
Under 8	: I.Page and J.Graham

At the end of season barbecue, held at Jelbart Park, trophies were presented and each junior player received a club pennant. Senior players received a bottle of champagne.

The season closed with a very happy ball, conducted in a relaxed atmosphere, the large crowd thoroughly enjoying the evening.

A competition was conducted during the year, first prize being a kayak, second a lady's Oroton bag and third was Tupperware. These competitions through the seasons were very successful ventures and boosted the finances of the club.

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS 1976

SENIORS	: J.Van Reemst, W.Fraser, H.Winter
UNDER 16	: G.Williams, E.Lydick, M.Fraser, P.Robards, P.Walsh
UNDER 14	: R.Dillon
UNDER 12	: R.Quihampton, W.Thomas, O.John
UNDER 10	: G.Ruitenberg, P.Bates, B.Duff, P.Stephens, G.Small, C.Pearsall, S.Jarvis.

SEASON 1977

Before the close of the 1976 season, the annual general meeting took place. The office-bearers for the 1977 season were elected, as follows :

President : P.Bannister
Vice President : H.Winter
Secretary : G.Robards
Treasurer : B.Schmitz

Coaches were also appointed :

1st Team, Reserves : C.Vilano and H.Van Gerven, jnr.
Under 16 : P.Bannister
Under 14 : B.Eddy
Under 12 : B.Yule
Under 10 : M.Slomp, M.Thompson, E.Lydick, jnr
Under 8 : J.Graham, D.Knobloch, G.Armstrong and J.Dodge

It was announced that three further junior team sponsors had been secured : Under 14, George's Discounts; Under 12, Albury Foam Supplies; Under 10B, Picador Restaurant; Under 8C, Noel Searle for Glass.

SEASON 1978

The elected committee for the year were :

President : P.Bannister
Secretary : C.Salome
Treasurer : B.Schmitz

Albury United had mixed fortunes during the year with some teams enjoying a successful year while others had to be content to battle away in the lower reaches of the league.

Our seniors finished 8th, but were involved in some exciting games, such as the 3-3 draws against Myrtleford and Wangaratta. Meanwhile our Reserves finished the season in 2nd position with 12 wins.

The most successful team this year was our U/12s who finished 2nd in the league with 13 wins, whilst finishing runners-up in the Cup competition.

1978 RESERVES.
BACK: G.Williams, M.Fraser, G.Massie, P.Bannister, C.Salome, M.Glabbatz, C.Villani (Coach)
FRONT: L.Sergeant, R.Fraser, G.Dodd, D.Sexton, O.Walsh.

1978 SENIORS.
BACK: D.Sexton, M.Fraser, P.O'Flaherty,...., H.Winter, P.Galanakis, G.Massie, C.Villani (Coach).
FRONT: R.Parker, W.Fraser, J.Van Reemst, C.Marley, H.Van Gerven.

SEASON 1979

The committee for 1979 was elected as :

President : F.Bannister
Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Secretary : C.Salome

Our seniors enjoyed their best season for years, ending the season with 9 wins, while holding the 2nd best defensive record with 23 goals conceded. The reserves finished 4th with 11 wins conceding only 20 for the season (best in the League) and scoring 68 along the way. Our U16s finished 5th with 11 wins. Our best team for season 1979 were our U/14s who finished 3rd with 18 wins, and also won the Cup competition.

The seniors had a successful run in the Riverina Cup before going out to Hotspurs in the quarter final. The Border Morning Mail previewed the match as follows :

"Albury United, inspired by recent wins over West Wodonga and Wodonga City has a good chance of eliminating Hotspurs from the Riverina Cup soccer knockout tomorrow.

United and Hotspurs meet in the quarter final at Jelbart Park at 3pm.

The United-Hotspurs clash will be the main match in the Albury-Wodonga area.

United has a lot of confidence - and a good record to match. A fortnight ago, United eliminated West Wodonga from the cup. The 2-1 win was a warning to other clubs that United is no longer a pushover.

In the match against West Wodonga, strikers Russell Brady and Wayne Fraser were elusive. Centre-half Joe Martinez was the backbone of the team, always being in control. His distribution and ability to read play paid big dividends.
Defenders Leigh Christian, Michael Fraser and Michael Flower marked their opponents, Darko Stuhli and Terry Devlin, with equal brilliance.

United's defence line will probably play a key role"

IT'S A CRUEL BLOW TO WEST'S PRIDE

By MIKE BOJOVIC

WEST Wodonga, which only a fortnight ago looked like a premiership team, suffered another cruel blow yesterday.

It was given a lesson by a younger, less experienced and lower-rated Albury United in the opening round of the Riverina Cup soccer competition.

United, trailing 1-0 at half-time, missed a penalty and still won easily, 2-1.

In contrast to the highly-rated opposition, United had no stars in its line-up.

But it showed determination and rolled the star-studded Wests.

United's chief strikers, Russell Brady and Wayne Fraser were far from unbeatable in Wests' end of the field.

But when opportunities came, Brady and Fraser knew how to finish an attack.

Wests on the other hand wasted time with short passes and individual play.

There was plenty of fancy footwork from Terry Devlin, Zelko Miokovic and Jeff Hobacic, but no constructive work.

Left winger Frank Zuljevic was always one step in front of the ball and not behind it.

He was a fraction too late at every scoring opportunity.

Other stars, Darko Stuhli, Devlin and Danny Flemming also failed to fire.

Wests took the lead in the 33rd minute, after a good cross from Miokovic to Zuljevic.

United goalkeeper John Ruitenberg intercepted the ball clumsily and it trickled over the goal line.

Only five minutes later, United missed a penalty.

It was clearly a re-organised team in the second half.

Fraser headed a goal in the 48th minute, after several near misses.

The goal inspired United to try harder, and it scored again only 10 minutes later.

The goal was kicked by Brady from about 5m out.

During the remaining 32 minutes, West Wodonga was forced into defence.

While Brady, Fraser and Joe Martinez were pounding away at the goal, Leigh Christian and Michael Fraser ripped Hobacic and Devlin to pieces.

Sweeper Ivan Angeleski, playing his first match after his six-months suspension, showed no effects of his long absence. He played as well as he always has.

Along with Miokovic in midfield, Angeleski tried until the final whistle.

But the remainder of the team was not the force it was in the first few rounds of the season.

UNITED left back Michael Fraser moves in to kick the ball as West Wodonga striker Jeff Hobacic loses his balance at Jelbart Park yesterday.

SEASON 1980

Elected to the committee were :

President : R.Fraser
Secretary : C.Salome

This year, our Ladies team was formed under coach Chris Salome, and manager M.Flower. Playing against more experienced players during the year, we finished 7th with 4 wins and played in the Consolation Final but unfortunately lost 2-0 to West Wodonga. The girls were optimistic they would do better next season with the experience gained during the year.

Our senior teams fared better, with the firsts winning 7 games and finishing 9th, while our reserves won both the Championship and Cup Final, beating Twin City 4-0 in the final to complete our most successful season ever, at this level.

Our U/8s finished 2nd behind Melrose Park Rangers, pushing them all the way but finally losing out by one point.

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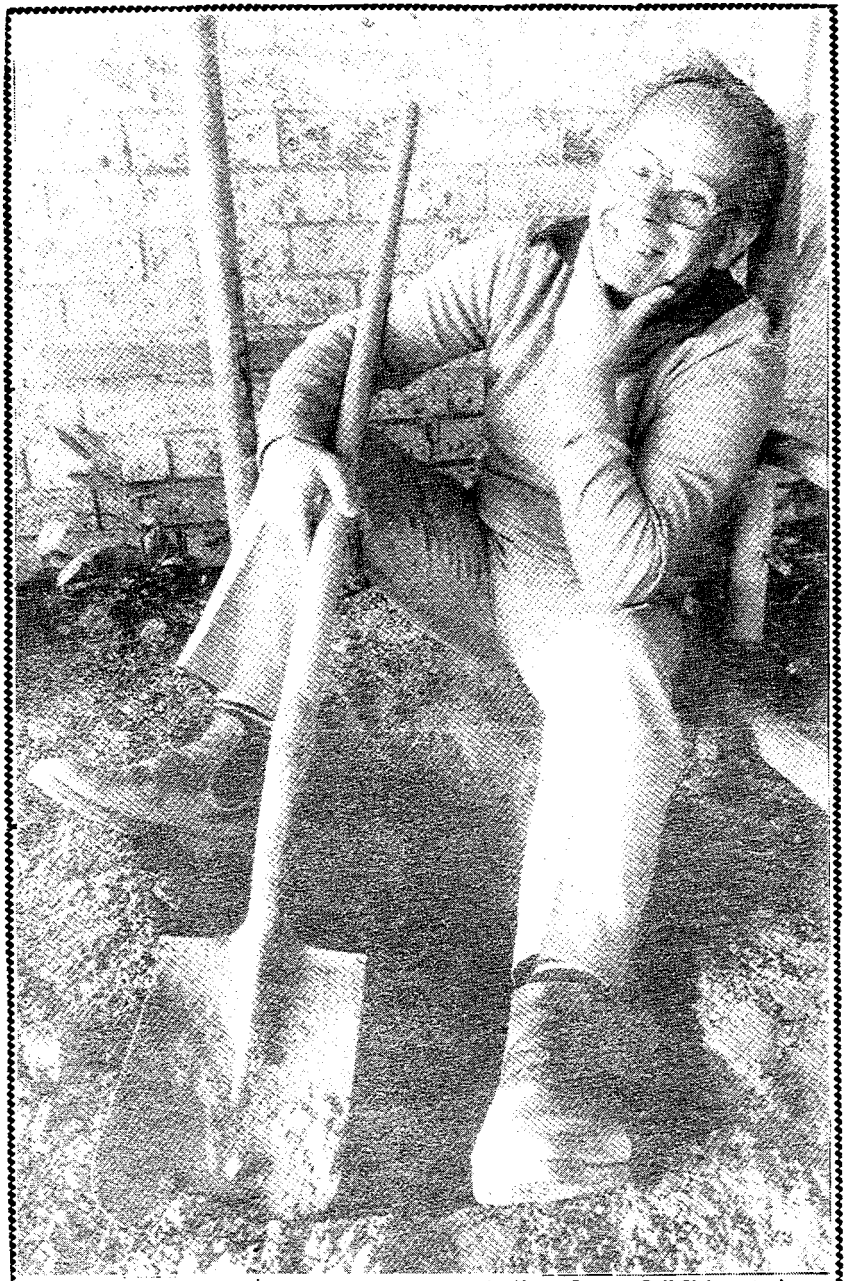

● The smooth-looking Peter Bannister takes a rest at the Hume Country Golf Club yesterday.

Peter makes it a clean sweep

ALBURY United Soccer Club's Reserves coach Peter Bannister was almost a stranger when he appeared at work on Monday morning.

And it was no wonder — it was the first time most people had seen him shaven.

The 42-year-old plumber shaves only on special occasions — like when his team wins a league championship.

The curious few had to wait 17 years to see Bannister's chin, for United has not won the championship for 17 years.

United won the 1980 reserve grade title three points ahead of Twin City Wanderers.

● Spotlight on Soccer — Page 28.

SEASON 1981

Office bearers for season 1981 were:

President : T.Peffer/G.Lydick Vice President : E.Davis
Secretary : C.Salome Treasurer : B.Schmitz
Registrar : C.Blundell Publicity Off. : R.Pierce
Social Committee Pres. : R.Parker

Contrary to optimism expressed at the beginning of the season, league results were generally down on the previous years (1980). Due to job transfers, furthering education, etc our senior team lost a number of players and consequently had a poor year, finishing bottom of the table, with the reserves finishing mid-table with 10 wins. Despite a disappointing league year, a well supported end of season trip to Canberra was organised for the senior teams. Accommodation was organised by Russell Kirkman, although not all players stayed at the one spot, as some failed to find their way back after a big night out. Eventually all players were located (some with difficulty) and the group finally made its way back to Albury.

Our best performed team this season was our U/10s which finished 2nd in the table but won the cup defeating Melrose in the final 3-2. Our U/8s finished 2nd in the league also, but lost the Association Cup Final on penalties to Twin City, who had finished as champions.

Our ladies finished mid-table with 7 wins but had the satisfaction of winning the Consolation Cup Final 2-1 against Twin City.

United were approached during the year to indicate if we were interested in playing important league matches at the Border Soccer Club. It was envisaged that a "Match of the Day" would be played on Saturday afternoons thereby giving players and supporters the opportunity to watch other teams in action. A cover charge of $1.00 was proposed, to bring extra cash into the coffers of both the clubs participating and the Border Soccer Club. The idea never gained widespread popularity.

Congratulations were extended to Enid Davis for her efforts in organising a Rock-n-Roll dance for our mid-year function in July. It was very successful and provided some relief from a depressing senior season.

Despite much protestation as regards to United's finances, the committee were forced to pay $150.00 to the Association for the publishing of the A.W.S.A. yearbook. Leaving the payment until the "last minute", and as a consequence risking a fine, it was reasoned that the Association "couldn't get what isn't there". Dwindling funds were such, that this payment caused a significant drop in the clubs balance at this time.
In fact, to cut costs, United attempted to relieve all official linesmen at junior matches from their duties and appoint club linesmen.

United's game against Melrose Park Rangers on March 22nd was one of the "victims" of a referees "boycott" of local games. The Referees Association notified the A.W.S.A. that no referees would be available for that weeks matches, forcing them to look elsewhere for officials.

ODD SPOT:

A Pop Festival at Corry's Rd was proposed, to be organised between Melrose, Hotspurs and United. It was intended that "Countdown"'s Molly Meldrum host the show but after much discussion, the financial risk was considered too great.

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SEASON 1982

Office bearers elected for 1982 were :

President	: T.Peffer
Vice President	: P.Bannister
Secretary	: R.Pierce
Treasurer	: B.Schmitz
Publicity Officer	: M.Flower
Registrar	: C.Blundell
President Social Committee	: Enid Davis
Gear Steward	: I.McKenzie
Senior Coach	: C.Marley
Ladies Coach	: P.Bannister

Our U16 team were unfortunately unable to raise a team and consequently had to drop out. Without U16s, a natural progression to the seniors was missing, and as a result, our senior teams ranks were down on previous years.

The senior registration fee was initially set at $35.00, but after much discussion and some protest, this was revised to $30.00 which was of more acceptance to the players.

Our senior team was under strength from the start with only 7 players being registered at the first game. We obtained a coach after much chasing and the team seemed to be shaping up. Coach Mick Frank then asked for payment for his services and as we were not in a financial position to continue with his services, we had to let him go. Colin Marley then took over the job and the committee agreed it was a brave decision and appreciated his effort.

Elsewhere, in the juniors we had a reasonably successful year. Our U/8s (coached by Henry Hauck) finished 3rd, one point behind champions St Pats, our U/10s (coached by Joe Martinez) won the Association Cup, Anzac Shield and finished 2nd behind Lavington in the league. The U/10s most satisfying success would have been their 2-0 win over Lavington in the Cup Final, they had been unable to defeat this team for the last two seasons.

Dieter Knobloch took over the U/12s after both original coaches (Karl Angtenberger and Harry Geisecamp) were forced to relinquish the job for work reasons and took them to 7th place.

Our U/14s (coached by Pat O'Flaherty) finished 2nd by one point to Twin City and were defeated in the Semi-Finals of the Cup Competition.

The ladies team celebrated 11 wins out of 22 matches (5 losses) and finished 4th in the league, which was an excellent effort considering many of our players were still learning the game.

A training film night held at the Hume School proved very popular with all players (both senior and junior) with a good number being in attendance. Peter Bannister obtained films by Pele and other stars which were shown and enjoyed. Mark Cowie helped arrange the venue with Hume School which was greatly appreciated.

Numerous club barbecues were held during the year, at the residences of club members. These were initially very popular and patrons were charged $2.00 a head or $5.00 a family.

The Annual Presentation Night was held at the Commercial Club on the 23rd October and was well attended. The cost was set down as $25.00 a double or $10.00 a single for the junior and ladies team.

The President, Tom Peffer (in his Presidents Report) expressed disappointment that the club didn't get as many workers as expected, which led to the fact that committee members were often overworked and sometimes the jobs may not have been done as well as they should. It was expressed that it was important that more people become involved in the running of the club, especially the parents of the juniors.

It was thought at the end of season 1982 amongst some of the committee, that if the downward trend in interest and senior players continued, a future for the club was in jeopardy.

SEASON 1983

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Lavington Scout Hall on 30th October 1982, the following office-bearers were elected for the year 1983:

President : N.Cavanagh
Secretary : I.Fielding/H.Hauck
(Ian Fielding resigned during the year due to family ill health)
Registrar/Treasurer : C.Blundell
Publicity Officer : M.Flower
Gear Steward : M.Flower
Sponsorship Organiser : H.Wright

During the summer a group of senior players entered the inaugural 6-a-side competition and were defeated in the Semi-final by the eventual winners "Donobus". The squad consisted of : Neil Mann, Chris Salome, Ward Peffer, James Davis, Mike Flower, Leigh Christian, Harry Wright, Peter Koch and Lyndon Sergeant. With the success of this team, consisting of senior players, it was hoped our fortunes in the A.W.S.A. would improve. Unfortunately, this was not the case and both our senior sides finished bottom of the ladder, the seniors with 2 wins and the reserves failing to win a match 3 seasons on from winning the double.

United were well represented in the "Footballers Gift" held during the Lavington Sports Clubs athletic carnival. In front of the T.V. cameras, Colin Marley and Geoff Molles ran well but missed out making the final.

The Murray High School gym was a popular venue on Tuesday nights as United conducted indoor soccer sessions. Under the auspicious control of Peter Bannister, club members (of both sexes) paid 20c to play for around one and a half hours, which was great for fitness and skill training. Participants may still remember Kim Davis (now Sergeant), and her "famous" body check tackles.

On the social side, a tennis day was held at Bungowannah, and in July, a successful 50/60's Rock-'n-roll night was held at the Civic Centre at a cost of $20.00 a double with supper provided. Further income was provided by the "renting" of the pitch to the now defunct Border Soccer Club for their training. At $8.00

per session, the income was modest but provided much needed help in the general finances of the club.

This year saw the beginning of the long running saga over ground allocation between United and Albury City. It was suggested by Albury City that United move to the adjacent football ground, with City gaining Jelbart No 1 in addition to the No 2 ground. This was initially given consideration by United but eventually left open until further details be obtained from the Albury City Council and the Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association. It was eventually decided to stay where we were due to the perceived "instability" of moving to a ground not solely used for soccer and the feeling of "tradition" obtained at the present home ground.

United finally fielded an U16 team and they finished with 4 wins and 6th in the league. On the whole, it was an average year in the juniors, with most teams finishing mid-table.

It was hoped by the committee that the reinstatement of our U16s would eventually lead to a steady flow of players into senior ranks in the years to come.

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SEASON 1984

At the A.G.M. held the previous year the following Office Bearers were elected for season 1984 :

President : N.Cavanagh
Snr Vice Pres.: T.Peffer
Jnr Vice Pres. : B.Eddy
Secretary : H.Hauck
Registrar/Treas.: C.Blundell
Soc. Club Pres. : L.Sergeant
Publicity Off. : M.Flower
Gear Steward : B.Eddy
Sponsorship : H.Wright

COACHES

7/U9 : H.Hauck
U11 : G.Martinez
U13 : B.Eddy
U15 : P.Bannister
U18 : P.O'Flaherty
Seniors : H.Wright
Ladies : P.Bannister, L.Sergeant.

Our ladies made the finals under the guidance of Peter Bannister and L.Sergeant and had been showing gradual improvement during the year.

In July, United were involved in what turned out to be one of the more controversial incidents in our history. After being removed from within the confines of the roped area for drinking, spectators at a match against Albury City sang songs which were interpreted to be abusive by the referee, Mr.I.Janissen who then stopped play until the spectators removed themselves. This they refused to do, the game finally restarting after the spectators were calmed down and convinced to refrain from singing that particular "ditty". Subsequent media reports and association meetings assured United of much unwanted publicity. United "escaped" with a $40.00 fine for drinking within the ropes and a $250.00 bond for improper control of officials. Much dissension followed, with United complaining about remarks made to the Border Morning Mail by local referees and Association representatives .

Ironically, later that year two referees were seen, and reported by Albury United for drinking alcohol while acting in an official capacity within the confines of the roped area at the A.W.S.A. Grand Final.

Our senior and reserve teams showed improvement under coach Harry Wright and it was good to see the seniors enjoy some success and publicity during the year. The seniors finished with 5 wins and were in the running for a finals position until late in the season. This was hopefully a sign of better times ahead.

Match halted over fan's abuse

By STEPHEN NICHOLLS

AN Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association match was thrown into chaos yesterday when the referee halted play for 10 minutes.

Referee Ivan Janissen stopped the Albury City-United clash at Jelbart Park when he alleged a United spectator had hurled abuse at him over an off-side decision.

Janissen said the spectator had claimed he was a United official.

He said the spectator was sitting on the official's bench inside the rope railing drinking beer.

Janissen claimed the man had another three stubbies in his lap.

"He said he was the first-aid person," he said.

"When a bloke that's supposed to be an official sits there drinking and calls you every name under the sun what are you supposed to do?

"That's coming from the bench — well we don't have to tolerate that."

Janissen said he had asked the spectator to move behind the rope or he would call the match off.

"But he just wouldn't back off and kept on and on with the abuse," he said.

"The United players were starting to get upset and I had to stop the game and try to sort it all out."

The referee claimed the United players, spurred on by the spectator, had started to question every one of his decisions.

"He couldn't accept any of my decisions — he had to say something," Janissen said.

"The abuse that was given upset the players and they started to get the idea I was making the wrong decisions."

Janissen said it was not safe to continue the match because the players had been aggravated by the spectator's comments.

After stopping the match, Janissen had spoken to the Albury City president, Mr David Walsh.

Janissen said Mr Walsh had been very upset about the spectator's behaviour and suggested he ask the spectator to move back.

Janissen said he had looked for the field marshall who is supposed to keep the spectators under control.

But Janissen said the appointed person from the club had told him he was not aware he was the field marshall.

He said the spectator had refused to budge and continued to abuse him.

The match was restarted after 10 minutes when the spectator eventually moved.

Janissen said he could still hear the spectator's continued abuse 30m.

"A few people that go there think it's an excuse to fill themselves with liquor-,"Janissen said.

"But we shouldn't have to tolerate that sort of behavior."

"We don't do it for the money — it hardly covers the costs of getting there anyway."

Walsh said last night he personally did not think the spectator's abuse warranted stopping the match.

"But he had his reasons," Mr Walsh said.

Janissen said he would include the incident in his report to the Referees Association.

Soccer heckler 'was just singing'

THE spectator accused of abusing the referee in Albury United's clash against Albury City on Sunday had "only been singing," it was claimed yesterday.

Referee Ivan Janissen stopped Sunday's match for 10 minutes until the person involved was moved away from the pitch.

But United coach Harry Wright said yesterday the person had been singing along with a group of other United supporters when Janissen stopped the match. "He was singing what you would hear at any soccer match in England when 50,000 people are there," Wright said.

"All right, it might not have sounded nice.

"But he picked on one person when there were four or five people involved."

Wright denied the person, who he refused to name, had been sitting on the bench inside the rope at the time as Janissen had claimed.

"He had been moved back past the rope about 10 minutes after the match had started," Wright said.

"The referee said there had been too many people on the bench, so he asked most of the people to move back, which was fair enough."

Wright said he thought the referee's decision to stop the match was "totally uncalled for".

"You can't stop a spectator from cheering his team on," Wright said.

"If the referee can't take a bit of ribbing, he shouldn't be out there."

● The Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association president, Mr John King, said yesterday he could not comment about the circumstances of the incident until he saw the referee's report.

But he said the AWSA executive would make a full investigation.

Mr King said Albury United could be penalised over the incident.

"If the spectator was just one of the supporters he should have been behind the line and not sitting on the bench," Mr King said.

"And he most certainly should not have been drinking if he was inside the line."

"If he's an official it's even worse."

Referee 'quite within his rights'

A SENIOR referee yesterday strongly supported the decision of Ivan Janissen to halt Sunday's Albury United-Albury City clash.

Mr Michael Randall congratulated Janissen for having "the guts" to take the step.

"I was at the ground watching the reserves match on Sunday and the language was disgusting," Mr Randall said.

"Ivan was quite within his rights and took the only sensible course open to him.

"I have absolutely no doubts that he did the right thing."

Janissen stopped Sunday's Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association match for 10 minutes and ordered that a spectator to be cleared from the official area.

Mr Randall is a senior referee on the Albury-Wodonga Referees Association panel.

He said he was surprised at claims that the fans were merely singing songs.

Mr Randall said the words used in the songs were indecent and disgusting.

He said two senior players, both readily identifiable, were among the offenders.

Mr Randall said Janissen's actions were "not out of step at all."

"I doubt very much that Ivan felt threatened at any stage," he said.

"But he would have been concerned at the effect on the players on the field.

"We have seen previously what happens when players are incited by the spectators."

Mr Randall said that referees did not mind being "rubbished" by the fans.

But he said the behavior on Sunday could not be condoned.

Unfortunately, the rest of United's teams finished mid-table at best, uncharacteristically, as United is generally well known for its junior strength. The change to odd-number age divisions (11,13,15 etc) appeared to affect their overall performance.

Registration fees were set at $40.00 seniors and $16.00 for juniors (which is pre-compulsory insurance), while United ended the year with 94 registered players.

ODD SPOT : United was shocked when they received the initial charges for their Liquor Licence Application. The total Liquor purchases estimated for 18 months by the Licensing Board was $180,000.00 which meant a charge of $13,000.00 for a licence. Even allowing for some depressing performances by the seniors, it was decided that we couldn't consume that amount and a re-assessment was applied for, and granted.

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SEASON 1985

At the A.G.M. of 1984 the following committee were elected to office in 1985 :

President : T.Peffer/H.Hauck
(Tom Peffer resigned 25/4/85 due to work commitments).
Snr Vice President : H.Hauck
Jnr Vice President : M.Flower
Secretary : H.Wright
Registrar/Treasurer : C.Blundell
Social Club President : L.Sergeant
Publicity Officer : F.Finlay/M.Flower
Gear Steward : N.Cavanagh
Sponsorship Officer/s : C.Villani, F.Finlay
Senior Coach : E.Muellner
Ladies Coach : P.Bannister

Registration fees were set at seniors $50.00, and juniors $22.00 for first child, and $12.00 for the second.

This year saw our first Junior girl to be registered in our under-age sides. Erin Farrar began the trend which has been repeated in the years since.

A supporters club was formed by Carlo Villani, and it was envisaged that this would provide added income into the club.

The club was financially in a strong position with over $2,000 in assets, whilst on the playing field, the seniors, although having the second lowest number of registered players, maintained a high morale during the year, and has generally been the case, the juniors enjoyed a healthy number of registrations, giving coaches plenty of players to work with. Overall, the club was felt to be in a strengthening position, especially with Council plans for a new amenities building in full swing.

The years big improvers were our U/12s coached by Scott Kidd who finished 2nd in the league after finishing second last in 1984. This was credited to a more dedicated approach to training and playing.

A successful presentation night was held at the Commercial Club in late September where over 80 people attended at $12.00 per head.

ODD SPOT : United was approached by the Keith Melbourne Country Music Radio Show/Disco to provide music at functions. Playing a fast moving UP TEMPO country music extravaganza, it was guaranteed to get you up and dancing. Keith would spin records from his popular radio program with such artists as Slim Dusty, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Pride and others. Unfortunately for Keith, the offer was not taken up.

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SEASON 1986

Office bearers elected :

President : H.Hauck
Vice President : M.Flower
Secretary : L.Smith
Treasurer : C.McIndoe
Registrar : P.Muellner
Social Club Pres. : B.Eddy
Gear Steward : N.Cavanagh
Publicity Off. : F.Finlay, M.Flower
Sponsorship : H.Wright

Coaches :

U8 : T.Smith
U9 : M.Rochford
U10 : K.Farrar
U11 : B.Eddy
U12 : S.Kidd
U14 : L.Smith
U16 : C.Villani
Seniors : E.Muellner
Managers : B.Yule
: M.Flower
Ladies : P.Bannister

The best team performance came from our U/12's who finished 2nd in the league and won the Cup Final after a titanic struggle. Congratulations to Scott Kidd and Gus Martinez for their efforts with the side, which produced a number of representative players.

Off the field, the big news was the opening of the long awaited modified changing rooms and canteen to replace the old caravan (canteen) and small changing area. Initially, the club tentatively agreed to share the cost of the meeting room (1st floor) with Albury City but had to renege when it became obvious it was beyond the clubs financial capabilities (approx. $1700.00 per annum with $2000.00 deposit).

The larger rooms and tiled shower rooms saved the social committee many hours of transporting goods to and from the canteen, not to mention the actual transportation of the canteen itself, which became hazardous in the wet weather. Those who helped transport the canteen will remember many boggy, cold and wet mornings spent pushing the caravan as the tow vehicle wheels failed to grip on the greasy surface.

Registration was set at $60.00 Seniors, $25.00 Juniors ($15.00 for each extra child) and $16.00 for ladies, with additional finances being raised via the organisation of a Bush dance held in conjunction with Diggerville Tennis Club at the Police Boys Club in April (raised around $400.00).

Following much unsolicited sponsorship lobbying and lack of control in the use of the name "Albury United", it

was decided that all donations or sponsorships gained on behalf of the club should be presented to the committee for acceptance. This allowed the club greater control on sponsorship and helped "even" out discrepancies in the support of each team. Complaints had been made that some teams were receiving more assistance than others, a discrepancy that the club, until now, had little or no control over.

ODD SPOT : The Albury City Council sent a letter to United stating that it had been brought to their attention that males were allegedly using the females toilets and, if possible could we please refrain from doing so !

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1986 UNDER 12s.
BACK: B.Sharp, M.French, D.Causon, S.Kidd (Coach), M.Campbell, P.Baggeridge, L.Massey.
FRONT: B.Drake, M.Greacen, A.McIndoe, D.Burgess, C.Randall, B.Stevenson, J.Haynes.

1988 UNDER 12s
BACK: C.Rochford, A.Curley, W.Hauck, J.Thomas, T.Boucher, G.Bihler, B.Wild, L.Sturt.
FRONT: O.Gibbons, R.Manson, I.Vandervliet, D.Van Reemst, C.Thompson, J.Blackwood, R.Wrench.

SEASON 1987

At the A.G.M. for 1986, the following Office Bearers were elected to the committee:

President : H.Hauck
Vice President : A.Baggeridge
Secretary : L.Smith / B.Eddy
Treasurer : C.McIndoe
Registrar : P.Muellner
Social Club Pres. : B.Eddy
Gear Steward : N.Cavanagh
Publicity Off. : S.Kidd / M.Sharp
Sponsorship : M.Rochford

Coaches:

U8 : T.Smith
U10 : B.Gibbons
U11 : T.Hughes
U12 : H.Hauck
U14 : S.Kidd
Seniors : E.Muellner
Ladies : B.Eddy

Registration fees were kept to the same level as the previous year being $60.00 for seniors, and $25.00 children (2nd child $15.00).

After a slow start to the season in which we looked like we may struggle for players in some age divisions, we eventually managed to field teams in most, and were continuing to register players, well into the season.
Early season results were encouraging for all junior teams, but the seniors struggled for form and application. With two thirds of the season gone, the senior coach Ernst Muellner resigned, his position being taken over by the manager, Mike Flower, until the end of the season.

In the Anzac Cup competitions held by numerous clubs, our U14s were the most successful, entering Wodonga City's competition, and running out winners. In fact, the U14s had a very successful year where they also finished runners-up in the league, won the Association Cup and won the title of U14 Victorian Country Champions. In this time, they played a total of 36 games, only losing 1. Many of the squad represented NSW State Country, Victorian Country, Riverina and A.W.S.A. teams with 12 of the team members being regular representative players.

United were again embroiled in controversy when during a match against Albury City, one of City's spectators struck a junior player and threatened a United committeeman's wife. After some strong words were exchanged the incident calmed down, United sending a strongly worded letter of complaint to the Association.

A West German football team visited the district and played the Albury Wodonga Soccer Association representative teams. United were involved in the billeting of some players, the match proving to be very popular amongst local football followers.

Bad news on the financial front was received when United was notified of a break-in at the canteen. Approximately $200.00 worth of stock was stolen, with United and the Albury Council being forced to examine stronger security locks. Numerous attempts had previously been made to gain entry, none being successful.

Sth Shepparton applied to join the A.W.S.A. but the club decided to vote against its affiliation as one of the reasons United initially joined the Albury-Wodonga league was to curtail its travelling. United were originally in the North Eastern Soccer Federation and had to travel as far as Cobram, Benalla and Khancoban and did not wish to incur further travel costs during the season. However, we were not alone in this decision as the application to join by the Shepparton club was rejected by a unanimous vote.

The end of season presentation night was held at the Boomerangs Tiki Bar and took the form of a barbecue/informal night. Once again, it was well supported with a large crowd having a good time.

SEASON 1988

The committee for season 1988 were :

President : T.Hughes
Vice President : A.Baggeridge
Secretary : B.Eddy
Treasurer/Registrar : C.McIndoe
Asst.Treasurer/Regr : S.Farrar
Social Club Pres. : S.Farrar
Gear Steward : J.Van Reemst
Publicity Officer : S.Kidd
Sponsorship Raiser : H.Wright

Coaches :

U8 : J.Dalitz
U9 : M.Slomp
U12 : K.Farrar
U12A : B.Gibbons
U14 : S.Kidd
U16 : H.Wright
Seniors : M.Flower
Ladies : B.Eddy/S.Kidd

The season began with United trying to address a problem that had been increasing in recent years, that being the non, or part payment of player registration fees. At the previous years A.G.M. a figure of around $1000.00 was outstanding, which the club could ill afford to do without. The system requires that registered players must be fully paid up with the Association prior to their playing. Thus the club pays this full amount and tries to extract the amount owing from the players involved. Unfortunately, even with the addition of time limits (or no playing until amount paid) on payments, this problem still exists albeit involving smaller debts.

The player fees were kept to a minimum, being seniors $60.00 and juniors $25.00 for the first child, $15.00 for each further child.

The ladies, aided by the addition of some senior players, and juniors "graduating" to senior ranks, finished inside the top five as they had done so on numerous previous occasions. Unfortunately, they were not quite strong enough to go all the way and win the Association Cup.

The seniors season was disrupted when coach Mike Flower was forced to resign through overseas travel plans, with Graeme Massie stepping in to take over. Graeme was assisted by his brother Scott as manager and these two directed the teams fortunes until the end of the season.

Soccer in the U12s suffered from its popularity when disputes arose over the composition of the two United teams entered. Having the best players in one team, left

the other rather uncompetitive so it was decided to segregate the teams on an age basis. After several meetings between coaches, players, the committee and parents, a solution was finally agreed upon, although this still was not to everyone's lasting satisfaction. Emotions ran deep over this decision, and it took some time for the club to settle down.

The U14s were again Anzac Cup winners and were league runners-up for the second year running, and Cup runners-up following on from their successes the previous season.

Vandals again saw the canteen as an easy target, although this time only around $70.00 worth of stock was taken. This latest break-in forced the committee and Council to seriously consider more stringent security measures which were put into place with an alarm system and a stronger locking system.

The senior presentation night was again held at the Boomerangs Tiki Bar, at a cost of only $6.00 a single or $10.00 a double. However, some members expressed they would prefer a slightly more formal evening, even if it meant a greater cost.

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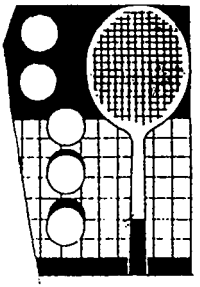

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SEASON 1989

The committee for this season were :

President : H.Hauck
Vice President : A.Baggeridge
Jnr Vice President : T.Hughes
Secretary : H.Wright
Hon. Secretary : B.Eddy
Treasurer : C.McIndoe
Social Club Pres. : S.Farrar
Gear Steward : G.Massie
Publicity Officer : T.Hughes
Ladies Co-ordinator : M.Vlasic
Registrar : B.Holmes

Coaches :

U8 : J.Van Reemst
U9 :
U10 : H.Hauck
U12 : T.Hughes
U14 : M.Shaw
U16 : S.Kidd
Seniors : M.Flower
Manager : J.Kelly
Ladies : H.Wright
Jnr Ladies : G.Wilde

In an effort to keep the registration fees as low as possible, United kept the fees the same as the previous seasons, being $60.00 for seniors and $25.00 for the first child, $15.00 for subsequent children. In addition, a further fee ($5.00) was placed on the senior charge if it had not been paid by March 30th.

The committee reappointed Mike Flower as coach of the senior teams and after a slow start, they became very competitive in the second half of the season. Although not in contention for a finals berth, the senior side showed great improvement as the season went on, playing to a system which encompassed hard work and support which suited the players available.

Harry Wright took over the Ladies team for this season, inheriting talented players such as Doris Brouwer, Caroline Bayer, Danielle Collins, Tracy Wilson and Tanya Tyrell to name but a few. This side became very competitive and went all the way to the Major Series final before losing in a penalty shootout to eventual winners Myrtleford, against whom United had a number of eventful tussles during the year.

1990 UNDER 16s.
BACK: M.Barrows, M.Campbell, S.Kidd (Coach), P.Baggeridge, M.Tyrrell.
MIDDLE: G.Church, A.Hauck, S.Easom, P.Hayes, M.Corrigan, K.Godfrey.
FRONT: D.Van Reemst, C.Sutcliffe, B.Stevenson, A.McIndoe, M.Greacen, S.Hughes.

1988 LADIES.
BACK: M.Vlasic, R.Bourghton, L.Vlasic, T.Tyrell, H.Griener, K.Gormly, T.Wilson, C.Konicanen, N.Tyrell.
FRONT: J.Delphin, J.Drake, D.Konicanen, Tina, C.Bayer, J.Gormly.

SEASON 1990

The elected committee for season 1990 as as follows :

President : H.Hauck
Vice President : B.Holmes
Jnr Vice President : T.Hughes
Secretary : S.Farrar
Hon.Secretary : H.Wright
Treasurer : C.McIndoe
Registrar : B.Holmes
Gear Steward : M.Rochford
Publicity Officer : S.Kidd
Sponsorship : H.Wright
Ladies Co-ordinator : M.Vlasic
Social Club President : T.Hughes

Coaches :

U8 : J.Van Reemst
U10 :
U12 : H.Morell
U14 : M.Shaw
U16 : S.Kidd
Seniors : A.Jones
Manager : K.Farrar
Ladies : H.Wright

With ever increasing Association charges and costs forcing the registration fees to rise, a different approach was taken this year. Players would pay a nominal amount plus a little each week instead of one large amount. The following charges were set :

Seniors : $40.00 + $2.00 per game
Students : $15.00 + $1.00 ($2.00 for senior students)
Juniors : $15.00 + $1.00 (2nd child $10.00 initial cost)
Ladies : $15.00 + $1.00 per game.

May saw Frustration overflow at one of United's senior matches when two players were involved in a scuffle after a match. A disciplinary committee was convened to solve the dispute which brought the clubs name into disrepute. Thankfully the incident was soon over and the club could return to more football oriented matters. Both players were given severe reprimands over their conduct.

The ladies had a much more successful year. Having the nucleus of a top side already there, and the recruitment of Cory Shaw and Angela Iannotta, they became unbeatable. With Joanne Wilson joining the backline, United had the best backline in the Association. This side created history in the Ladies Association by winning the Anzac Cup, Challenge Cup, League Championship (by 6 points) and the Association Cup. A feat not managed by any other side.

The U16s also had a successful year where they were League Champions, and finished runners-up in both the Anzac and Association Cups.

The mid-year function was held on the 20th July at the Lutheran Hall. This took the form of an "amateur night" (an apt description) and dance. Players and supporters were invited to perform, which at last gave a stage to many a repressed talent. Unfortunately, the display showed why that talent had been repressed, with over 70 people enjoying the evening , and helping to raise further funds for the club.

The junior presentation once again involved the running of the popular "Mini Olympics", consisting of a number of events contested by teams composed of our juniors. Events such as the potato race, balloon race and others kept the juniors occupied while parents and supporters cheered them on. The senior presentation was held at the Albury Golf club, with over 110 people attending, making the night a huge success.

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1991 LADIES UNDER 16.
BACK: T.Milligan, Brook, S.Farrar (Manager), H.Wright (Coach), C.Bayer
A.Rosewarne.
NEXT ROW: S.Haley.
MIDDLE: Erin Farrar, C.Shaw, R.Manson, Emma Farrar.
FRONT: A.Haitsma, E.Gonzalez.

1990 LADIES
BACK: H.Wright (Coach), F.Bridle, J.Wilson, T.Wilson, N.Tyrrell,
H.Greiner, F.Thompson (Manager).
MIDDLE: K.Warner, J.Delphin, D.Brouwer, J.Drake, C.Shaw, C.Bayer.
FRONT: D.Collins, C.Hauck (Mascot), A.Iannotta.

SEASON 1991

The committee for this year consisted of :

President : S.Kidd
Snr Vice President : B.Holmes
Jnr Vice President : T.Hughes
Secretary : S.Farrar
Hon. Secretary : H.Wright
Treasurer : C.McIndoe
Registrar : D.Van Reemst
Social Club Pres. : T.Hughes
Gear Steward : M.Rochford
Sponsorship : H.Wright

Coaches:

U8 : H.Hauck
U9 : S. & B.Easom
U12 : S.Kidd
U14 : J.Van Reemst
U16 : M.Shaw
Senior : A.Jones
Manager : M.Rochford
Ladies : H.Wright
Manager : F.Thompson

Early in the year, it was decided to approach the Lavington Sports Club with a suggestion of affiliation. Although not in financial trouble, the club saw affiliation as a step towards a more prosperous future, and decided to instigate proceedings before another club may have stepped in.

The first seats were erected around the ground, making it more comfortable for supporters, the ground gradually increasing in various facilities during recent years.

With Harry Wright and Fred Thompson in their final year as ladies coach and manager respectively, United had a very slow start to the pre-season. After losing a couple of players from the previous season, they had to call on a number of younger girls from the under 16s to make up the senior side. The junior girls used, such as Emma and Erin Farrar improved in leaps and bounds, playing both senior and junior ladies matches. The junior girls went on to reach the semi-finals, but a strong Diamonds side defeated them. However, the senior girls (with a lot of help from the juniors) went on to repeat the previous years feat, by winning all four trophies. Special thanks to "seasoned" players Angela Iannotta, Doris Brouwer, Joanne Wilson and Danielle Collins for their support and assistance to the junior members of the team and also to Sue Farrar for her help during the year.

United seniors started the season in good form and in their second match provided hope for the season ahead with a 2-0 win over Albury City. The Border Morning Mail of 15/4/91 reported the following :

"United broke a drought when it defeated Albury City 2-0 at Jelbart Park. United played out the full 90 minutes and were led to victory by midfielder Ian Dalitz and promising youngster Mathew Greacen. Greacen, a product of the under 16s, capped off a fine performance with a goal, while Dalitz weaved his magic from the opening kickoff"

United followed this result with an unlucky night draw against Lavington. Trailing 3-0 at the break, United stormed home to draw 3-3 and had chances to win but failed to convert 3 clear cut chances. Diamonds were the next opponents and were outplayed up to half time but came back to snatch a last gasp victory. The Border Morning Mail, finding United newsworthy gave this report on 22/4/91 :

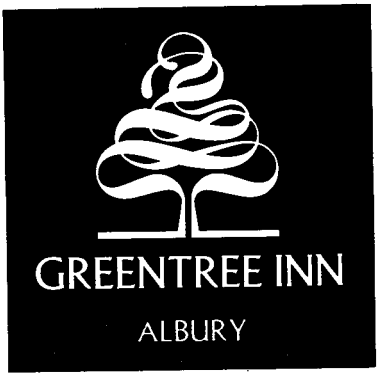
"Wodonga Diamonds scored a thrilling 3-2 victory against Albury United at Diamond Park. United opened the scoring with goals to talented youngster Mathew Greacen and David Currie and held a 2-0 advantage at the break. But playing three matches in seven days took its toll on the visitors as Diamonds stormed home. Paul Millyn and Michael Mitterer did the damage in the second half with Mitterer scoring the decider three minutes from full time. United Goalkeeper John Van Reemst turned in a superb exhibition, saving several certain goals late in the match."

United were involved in the "upset of the season" later this year when they came from behind to inflict upon Melrose Park Rangers their first defeat of the season. This result gained great exposure in the B.M.M. of 24/6/91 which said :

"Albury United scored the upset of the Albury-Wodonga Soccer Association yesterday when it defeated Melrose Park Rangers 2-1 at Jelbart Park. The enthusiastic United team trailed 1-0 at half time, but goals to Matt Cavanagh and Mathew Greacen sealed the visitors fate. Both teams produced several desperate attacking moves in the final 20 minutes but it was Cavanagh who scored the decider. He netted a goal from a penalty with only 10 minutes left on the clock and Melrose were unable to come back. Coach Alun Jones was full of praise for his youngsters. "The boys showed a lot of courage out there today and this is good for the teams confidence," he said.
And while every player did contribute for Albury United, Greacen, Steve Jones, Paul Hayes, goalkeeper John Van Reemst and Colin Marley were the stars."

Affiliation with the L.S.C started to have its advantages with the end of season presentation night being held in the clubrooms at the main stand at the sports oval. A good crowd enjoyed the night, catered for by the United Social Committee.

Further to initial enquiries, the Sports Club also allowed the annual off-season 6-a-side competition to be held in the velodrome, which, as it turned out, was an excellent venue, and the club enjoyed success both on and off the field at this competition.



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SEASON 1992

Office bearers elected for the 25th year were as follows:

President : J. Van Reemst
Snr Vice President : B. Holmes
Jnr Vice President : J. Hauck
Secretary : S. Farrar
Treasurer : C. McIndoe
Registrar : D. Van Reemst
Social Club Pres. : B. Easom
Publicity Off. : T.Hughes/S.Kidd
Sponsorship : H. Wright
Gear Steward : M. Rochford

Coaches :

U8 : J.Grant
U9 : S.Farrar
U10 : S. & B.Easom
U12 : S.Kidd
U14 : J.Van Reemst
U16 : M.Shaw
Senior : F.Rossettin
Ass.Coach : S.Morse
Manager : H.Hauck
Ladies : L.Chettleberg

Once again, United's Senior mens sides showed inconsistent performances were not a thing of the past and played accordingly. Despite a solid pre-season, the seniors found it hard to get going and consequently played another year out of the finals. Despite gaining players which gave the club hope for the season, a number of good players from 1991 left through injury or personal reasons which brought the club back to virtually where they started, a typical scenario for the club. However, the seniors finished on a positive note by defeating Twin City and coming from 2 goals down to draw with Myrtleford in their last two games, while also providing good games during the season.

The new ladies coach, Les Chettleburg had the difficult task of taking over a side that had lost 6 players from the previous seasons record breaking side. These players were replaced by young inexperienced girls which added to the task. However, with Joanne Wilson, Tracy Wilson, Angela Iannotta, Danielle Collins, Emma and Erin Farrar still there, he has been able to mould a side that remained competitive. In the finals, United were defeated by Myrtleford 3-0 on a wet Melrose Park.

In the junior divisions, United had a very successful year with most teams contesting the finals. The Under 7s won the championship, while the Under 8s, Under 10s and Under 12s were all close, right up to the final game. Overall, it was one of the most successful years we've had at junior level.

Security was taken a further step with the introduction of a new alarm in the canteen. Although the fridge is

well locked and all other goods removed for the week, (thereby protecting us from any substantial losses) it was felt that added security was needed to prevent any further break-ins. The roller doors were also to be modified and strengthened.

It was proposed that the womens teams become affiliated with the Mens Association. After discussing the issue with the ladies team, it was decided to reject the proposal on the grounds that there was little to gain from their point of view. The club supported them on this view.

During the season, numerous Bingo and Trivia nights were held and while these provided good income, the proceeds would have been greater had more senior players (both mens and Ladies) shown interest. Unfortunately, many players failed to attend these nights which are ultimately held for their benefit (allowing the club to purchase further equipment).

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1992 LADIES. Junior.
BACK: J.Vaccaro, N.Chettleburgh, S.Farrar (Manager), Emma Farrar.
FRONT: J.Chettleburgh, C.Hauck, Erin Farrar, M.Scolyer, V.Knowel.

1992 LADIES.
BACK: S.Farrar (Manager), S.Sitlakone, J.Wilson, D.Collins, T.Wilson, A.Kerr, L.Chettleburgh(Coach).
FRONT: N.Chettlebúrgh, M.O'Çonnor, Emma Farrar, K.Scolyer,Erin Farrar.

1992 UNDER 7s.
BACK: P.Jarvie (Coach), A.Kurban, J.Shepherd, A.Vigar, M.Carter, P.Carter (Coach)
FRONT: D.Walsh, S.Bush, G.Jarvie, D.Papas.

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1992 UNDER 8s
BACK: G.Shepherd (Manager), P.Slattery (Manager).
M.Carter, M.Asquith, B.Purcy, K.Litchfield, P.Slattery.
FRONT: D.Walsh, D.Grant, C.Scolyer, J.Shepherd, S.Harding

ABSENT: J.Grant (Coach).

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on the occasion of their

25th Anniversary

1992 UNDER 9s
BACK: M.Carter, B.Jarvie, D.Carter, S.Farrar (Coach), C.Hauck, M.Asquith.
FRONT: A.Assigal, C.Scolyer, G.Jarvie, J.Vigar, S.Gartman

ABSENT: M.Gordon, K.Rathbone, C.Greacen, A.Thiele, B.Haitsma. R.Vigar, B.Vigar (Managers)

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1992 UNDER 10s
BACK: S.Easom (Manager), N.Hussel, A.Cleeland, T.Shepherd, P.Spencer, J.Shepherd, D.Easom, B.Easom (Coach).
FRONT: J.Shepherd, A.Lockley, W.Phanith, M.Chambers, K.Clark, R.Van Reemst.

1992 UNDER 12s.
BACK: N.Scott, N.Ning, L.Collins, R.Clark, A.Alston, S.Kidd (Coach), M.Harris, C.Webb, R.Taylor.
FRONT: J.Bush, B.Caldbeck, K.Van Reemst, A.Burns, C.Davies

ABSENT: J.Pearce, J.Easom.

1992 UNDER 14s.
BACK: A.Hussel, T.McIndoe, C.Ellis, J.Van Reemst (Coach).
FRONT: L.Rochford, S.Burns, B.Johnson.

1992 UNDER 16s.
BACK: B.Bland, A.Hussel, P.Mizalski, S.Easom, T.Hughes(Ass.Coach)
G.Church, C.Church, L.Massey (Manager), S.Hughes.
FRONT: D.Stonehouse, J.Thomas, S.Farrar, W.Hauck, D.Van Reemst.

Absent : M.Shaw (Coach), C.Sutcliffe.

1992 RESERVES.
BACK: F.Rossettin (Coach), S.Morse, G.Harris, S.McLennan, S.Kidd, A.Jones, L.Sergeant, S.Field.
FRONT: D.Oliver, H.Wright, J.Thomas, S.Maddocks, I.Dalitz, A.Hauck, S.Farrar.

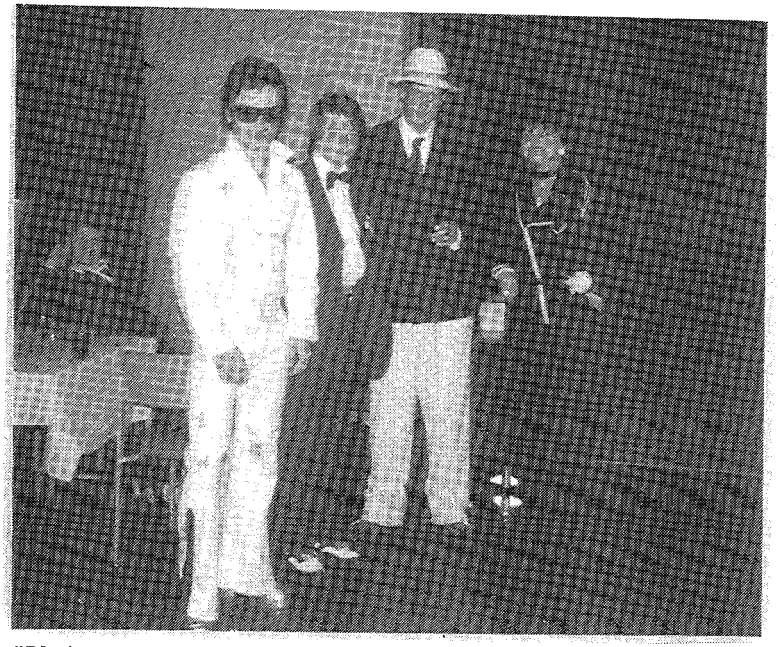
1992 SENIORS.
BACK: S.Field, L.Massey, S.Jones, M.Campbell, J.Breitkopf, M.Flower, M.Cavanagh, H.Hauck (Manager)
FRONT: D.Van Reemst, P.Hayes, F.Rossettin (Coach), A.McIndoe, M.Shaw

THE SOCIAL SIDE

As the cost of financing a football club spirals, so too does the importance of fundraising, which some years ago necessitated the formation of a separate committee designed for this purpose. Over the years, the Social Committee have strived to present interesting functions for fundraising to club members and guests,with trivia nights, theme dances, bingo, amateur acts, film nights and a host of other events. The following few pages show a glimpse of what goes on at these functions, although not all involve such bad dress sense as shown in some of the photographs here !

Former Presidents P.Bannister and R.Fraser don the aprons for a junior presentation.

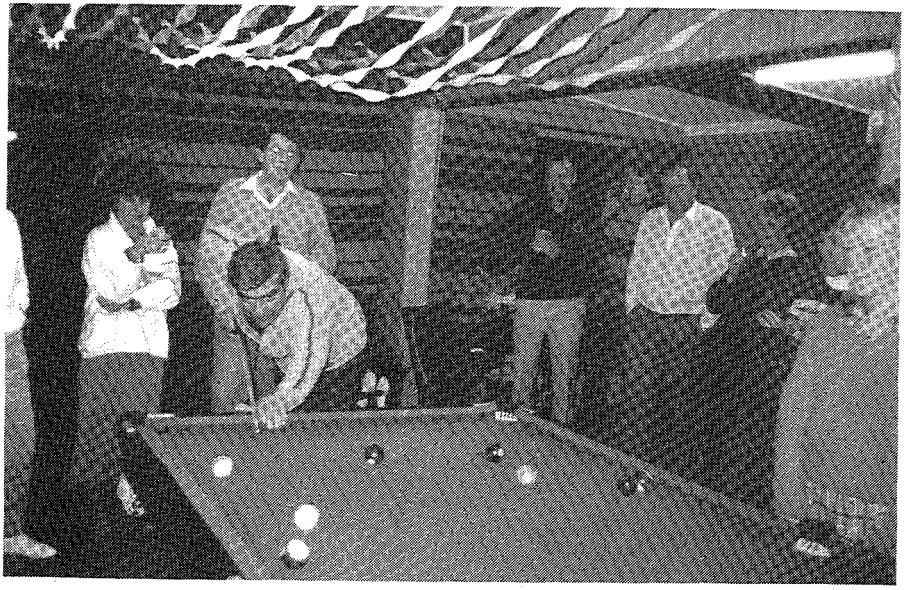
Lyndon and Kim Sergeant live it up at the Rock'n'Roll Ball.



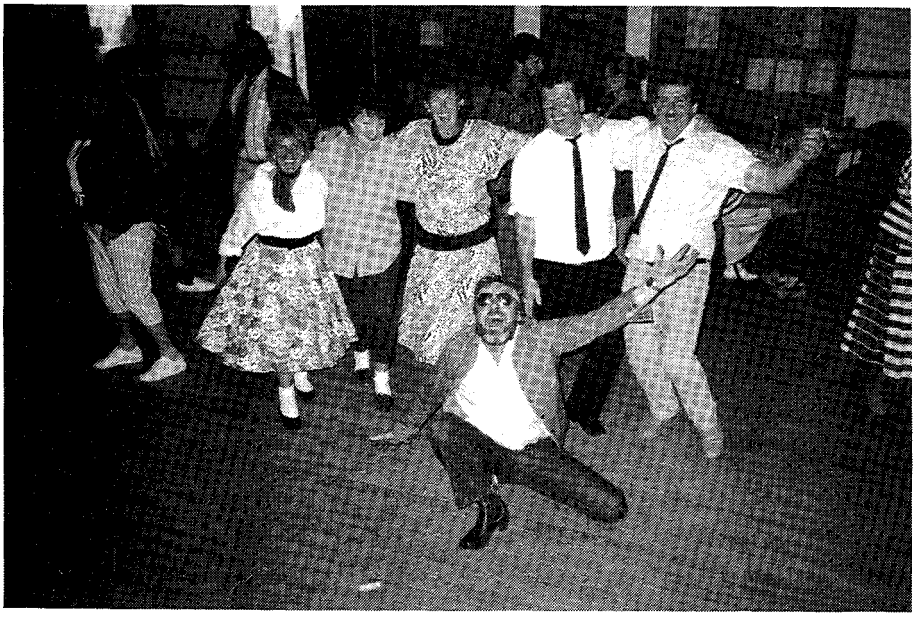
Harry "Elvis" Wright, James Davis, Chris Salome and Enid Davis at the Rock'n'Roll Ball.

L.Christian, L.Sergeant and K.Davis at the 1983 Rock'n'Roll Ball

Most successful United Ladies Team 1990 with their trophies at A.W.W.S.A. Presentation Day



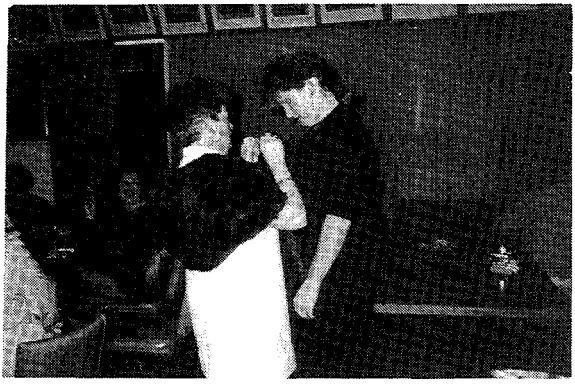
Gus Martinez lines up a shot at an "after final" party



L.Corrigan, J.Holmes, K.Baggeridge, J.Corrigan, B.Holmes and Mick Rochford (Front) at a Rock'n'Roll Dance in 1989.

....AND FINALLY

(Whatever were they thinking of ?)



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